

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 COME-00 EB-11 IO-12 AID-20 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-08 RSR-01 /120 W
----- 039211

P 261430 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1356

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2146

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

SAN SALVADOR FOR AGATT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EC, NU

SUBJ: REPORTED NICARAGUAN OFFERS TO SELL RICE AND MILK TO ECUADOR

REF: QUITO 2152

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED REPORTS OF NICARAGUAN OFFERS TO SELL RICE AND NON- FAT DRY MILK TO ECUADOR WITH GENERAL SOMOZA APRIL 25. SOMOZA SAID HE HAD APPROVED OFFER MADE BY MONTIEL ON BEHALF OF NICARAGUAN RICE GROWER' S COOPERATIVE TO SELL 5,000 TONS OF SURPLUS NICARAGUAN RICE. HE ADDED THAT NICARAGUA HAD LOST BID BECAUSE PRICE TOO HIGH AND RRICE SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD TO OTHER C. A. COUNTRY. THE GENERAL STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT " NOT ONE GRAIN WAS DONATED" AND OFFERED TO LET US INSPECT SHIPMENTS IF WE WISH.

2. ACCORDING TO GENERAL SOMOZA, THE 30 TONS OF NON- FAT DRY MILK IS MILK DONATED TO NICARAGUA BY NON- AFTOSA
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FREE COUNTRIES WHICH, ON ADVISE OF USDA, HAS NOT BEEN USED HERE. SOMOZA SAID HE HAD TURNED THIS MILK OVER TO THE RED CROSS WHICH PLANS TO USE IT IN ECUADOR. HE UNDERSTANDS RED CROSS NOW ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION THROUGH A UN RELIEF AGENCY. HE SAID HE HAS AN INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE RED CROSS THAT, IF POSSIBLE, IT WILL REPLACE THE MILK WITH OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

3. COMMENT: NICARAGUA IS NORMALLY A RICE EXPORTER AND PRE- QUAKE ESTIMATES OF THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT THIS YEAR RAN FROM 15,000 TO 20,000 TONS. IN THE IMMEDIATE POST- QUAKE PERIOD, NICARAGUA REQUESTED AND RECEIVED SOME EMERGENCY DONATIONS OF RICE FOR THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. RECORD- EKKPING WAS POOR IN THE CRISIS STAGE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATED RICE TO BE IN THE RANGE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE IT IS BEING RE- EXPORTED. SHELTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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